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INTERROGATION OF Lt.d.R. MUENTZ

TICOM

7 June 1945.

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Captain I.M. Campbell, I.C.
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visited Chalfont P/W cage, C.S.D.I.C., to interrogate Lt.d.R. Muentz, about which the following was found.

Lt.d.R. MUENTZ Seekriegsleit.4/III/O.K.M. (Dix 1.6.45.)

Until 1942 P/W served in the Army with an interpreter unit. He was recalled from France to Berlin and transferred to the Navy. Only training took place in Berlin, where he had a 6 weeks' course for Y-service.

After this he was assigned to O.K.M. in the Tirpitzufer, where his work consisted of decyphering messages.

The work of the Y-service is divided into (1) intercepting; (2) decyphering; and (3) evaluating. P/W remained in the decyphering section throughout his entire career.

Because of bombing on the 26th November 1943, the unit was moved to Eberswalde and remained until the 1st March 1945. After that they were constantly on the move, first to Sengwarden, then to Aurich, at Neumuenster and finally reached Flensburg at the end of April 1945. At that time he was called to Gluecksburg to be interpreter to Admiral LANGE, who was expecting a visit from an English Admiral. His services were not required and he returned to Flensburg.

After the surrender he was assigned to be interpreter to K.z.S. FRIEDRICHS, who was called to Montgomery's H.Q. at Muenchen-Gladbach. Because he was accused of giving the Hitler salute to a sentry he was removed to a P/W Camp, although he does not recollect the incident and says for reasons of tact and objection to that form of salute, he would certainly not have consciously given the salute.

P/W was born in England in 1908 and lived here until after the last war (1920). His father was forced to leave England in 1919 and the family followed him to Germany. He speaks English fluently, though not perfectly and is quite prepared to answer any questions about the Y-service. His particular work was connected with the Hagelin system which he said was used by the Americans in the Mediterranean and Far East. They were successful in breaking this system only under very special conditions.

I.O.'s Note: It is suggested that the section interested should interview him.

P/W entered a cryptanalytic office in June 1942, continued therein, with one short interruption, until the end of the war, April 1945. His organisation was part of O.K.M., and was headed by Kpt.z.S. KUPFER, and directed technically by ORR TRANOW. It was divided into three (or more) sections, for coping with English, American, and Russian systems respectively. The head of the American section was ORR FRANKE (last seen in Berlin), that of the Russian was Amtsrat SCHWABE. The English section was headed by TRANOW. TRANOW and FRANKE were veterans in cryptanalysis from the last war, the latter especially was very able. Some work was done on Swedish. When in Berlin the organisation had

In November 1943 bombed out, and moved to Eberowalde, taking 100 or 200 people. This number was subsequently cut in half. Early in 1945 the group moved to Flensburg/Neumunster with about 80 persons.

English Systems

They were able to read continuously for several years what they called GALLEON, a 5-digit code with 10,000 groups, recyphered by a subtractor. The book was captured.

They could read LOXO, a 4-letter code, with 3 or 4 hour time lag. It took 10-12 hours to get complete code. They also read COFOX.

They read what they called MUENCHEN BRAUN and MUENCHEN BLAU, a warship code in 1942 and 1943. It subsequently changed, when they succeeded in showing that it employed a stencil, but never read it, although they worked out the stencil. This information reached the prisoner indirectly.

American Ciphers

The prisoner himself worked on Hagelin. The Navy offered few depths, and they read only two or three days altogether. They spent a great deal of time on a theoretical solution independant of depths, based on the word separators. This method worked on one trial day with 30,000 letters, and failed on another. To guarantee success, a 100,000 would be needed.

OKW/Chi worked with great success on Army Hagelin, getting out most days by means of depths, with 24 hour lag. Sdf. Dr. STEINBERG and Uffz. Dr. LUCIUS worked on this. They had a technique for getting true settings from relative ones; the prisoner is preparing a write-up of this. It will be sent to Commander Dudley-Smith, War Station, via N.I.D.1 P/W.

The prisoner had succeeded in getting the pins and lugs from 38 letters of key; 100 would nearly always succeed. The Luftwaffe had a trick method of dragging a known word which was very fast. This method was in fact known to us.

A system with external indicators DUPYH was solved completely, just before its use was abandoned. Others, CEMEK and HIMEK, were analysed and thought to be a machine. Also others with similar discriminants.

Russian

The prisoner knew little of these systems. A Lt. FROWEIN, last at Flensburg, had worked in this section. He would probably be cooperative. He had also participated in an analysis of the ENIGMA machine which lasted three or four months, and which brought out a theoretical solution.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INTERROGATION

of Lt. D.R. MUENTZ, 18 July 1945

Reference I-6. Although PW had no personal experience with the Army M - 209, it was thought desirable to question him further for the sake of completeness.

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18 July 1945

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Supplementary Questions put to
LT. D.R. MUENZ at the request of
Major Seaman. 18 July 1945

Questions:

1. How many Army Hagelin Keys were broken per day?
2. On which fronts and when?
3. Which units were concerned?
4. Write a brief outline of the theoretical solution of Hagelin based on Word Separators.

Answers

1. Not known, but several.
2. PW first met DR. STEINBERG and DR. LUZIUS in the summer of 1943. They were having success then and continued to be successful as far as PW knows up to the end of the war. PW believes that they also had some success prior to 1943, possibly as early as 1941. PW knows only of successes in the Mediterranean theater; these covered the landings in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.
3. No Knowledge.
4. PW is preparing an outline as requested. It should be available in about a week.

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